

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

DARREN A. LUNFORD,

Case No. 2:20-cv-01767-RFB-VCF

Plaintiff

ORDER

v.

COOPER et al.,

Defendants

This action began with a *pro se* civil rights complaint filed under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 by a former state prisoner. On June 28, 2021, this Court issued an order directing Plaintiff to file his updated address with this Court by July 26, 2021. (ECF No. 4). The deadline has now expired, and Plaintiff has not filed his updated address or otherwise responded to the Court's order.

District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and “[i]n the exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . . dismissal” of a case. *Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action, with prejudice, based on a party's failure to prosecute an action, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules. See *Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (affirming dismissal for noncompliance with local rule); *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992) (affirming dismissal for failure to comply with an order requiring amendment of complaint); *Carey v. King*, 856 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (affirming dismissal for failure to comply with local rule requiring *pro se* plaintiffs to keep court apprised of address); *Malone v. U.S. Postal Service*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (affirming dismissal for failure to comply with court order); *Henderson v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986) (affirming dismissal for lack of prosecution and failure to comply with local rules).

In determining whether to dismiss an action for lack of prosecution, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules, the court must consider several factors: (1) the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to

1 manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring
2 disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives.
3 See *Thompson*, 782 F.2d at 831; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1423-24; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at
4 130; *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1260-61; *Ghazali*, 46 F.3d at 53.

5 Here, the Court finds that the first two factors, the public's interest in expeditiously
6 resolving this litigation and the Court's interest in managing the docket, weigh in favor of
7 dismissal. The third factor, risk of prejudice to Defendants, also weighs in favor of
8 dismissal, since a presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay
9 in filing a pleading ordered by the court or prosecuting an action. See *Anderson v. Air*
10 *West*, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth factor—public policy favoring
11 disposition of cases on their merits—is greatly outweighed by the factors in favor of
12 dismissal discussed herein. Finally, a court's warning to a party that his failure to obey
13 the court's order will result in dismissal satisfies the "consideration of alternatives"
14 requirement. *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1262; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 132-33; *Henderson*, 779
15 F.2d at 1424. The Court's order requiring Plaintiff to file his updated address with the
16 Court by July 26, 2021, expressly stated: "It is further ordered that, if Plaintiff fails to timely
17 comply with this order, this case will be subject to dismissal without prejudice." (ECF No.
18 4 at 2). Thus, Plaintiff had adequate warning that dismissal would result from his
19 noncompliance with the Court's order to file his updated address by July 26, 2021.

20 It is therefore ordered that this action is dismissed without prejudice based on
21 Plaintiff's failure to file an updated address in compliance with this Court's June 28, 2021,
22 order.

23 It is further ordered that the Clerk of Court will close the case and enter judgment
24 accordingly.

25 It is further ordered that Plaintiff may move to reopen this case and vacate the
26 judgment by filing a motion for reconsideration of this order. In this motion, Plaintiff needs
27 to explain that circumstances which led to him not being able to update his address as
28 directed by the Court. If the Court finds there is good cause or a reasonable explanation

1 for the failure to update the address, the Court will reopen the case and vacate the
2 judgment.

3
4 DATED THIS 3rd day of August 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RFB', written over a horizontal line.

RICHARD F. BOULWARE, II
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE